

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 OES-07 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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UNCLAS ATHENS 0312

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, SWEL, GR
SUBJECT: SNOW AND HURRICANE FORCE WINDS DAMAGE CROPS AND PROPERTY
THROUGHOUT GREECE - - 1977 MARKED BY UNUSUALLY
DEVASTATING WEATHER CONDITIONS

REFS: A) ATHENS 8021 B) ATHENS 10084

1. RECENT STORMS WHICH BROUGHT HURRICANE FORCE WINDS, SNOW AND UNUSUALLY COLD TEMPERATURES TO GREECE CAUSED A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE REGIONS OF BOETIA AND ACHAIA, POWER FAILURES AND SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY DAMAGE TO ATHENS SUBURBS, AND MAY RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE AGRICULTURAL LOSSES. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE CROP DAMAGES, WHICH INCLUDE CITRUS FRUIT STILL ON THE TREES, BUT IF THEY PROVE TO BE EXTENSIVE, EARLIER 1978 GNP ESTIMATES WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED DONWARDS. THIS WILL BE A BLOW TO GOG HOPES FOR A STRONGER RATE OF GROWTH THIS YEAR, WHICH IS BASED ON A 3-6 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

2. LAST WEEKEND'S STORM WAS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF UNUSUALLY ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH STRUCK GREECE IN 1977. A PROLONGED DROUGHT LAST WINTER WAS PARTICULARLY DEVASTATING FOR WINTER GRAIN, AND RESULTED IN A DROP IN GREECE'S PRIMARY
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SECTOR OUTPUT FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THIS TIME BY 2-3 PERCENT. DURING THE SUMMAR THE DRY CONDITIONS, ACCOMPANIED BY RECORD TEMPERATURES, CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREST FIRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY (REF A). AND IN THE FALL THE ATHENS AREA WAS HIS BY TWO MAJOR FLOODS. IN NOVEMBER, JUST BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THE WESTERN AND SOUTHWESTERN AREAS WERE FLOODED, KILLING THIRTY PEOPLE AND CAUSING DAMAGES EXCEEDING ONE BILLION DRACHMAS

(\$27.5 MILLION). (SEE REF B). IN DECEMBER, THE NORHTERN
SUBURBS WERE FLOODED, WHICH AGAIN RESULTED IN LOSS OF LIFE
AND SEVERAL MILLION DRACHMAS PROPERTY DAMAGE.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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